

November 26, 1963

Mr. J.E. Curry,
Chief of Police

Subject: Shooting of Lee Oswald

Sir:

On Sunday, November 24, 1963, at around 11AM, Deputy Chief Stevenson approached me in the administration offices and directed me to place two officers at the Commerce Street entrance to the ramp leading into the basement of the City Hall. He said to instruct these two officers that an armored truck was enroute and for them to assist the truck back as far as possible down the ramp into the City Hall. He also told me to take any remaining detectives that were available on the third floor to the basement and place them any place they were needed in the basement to supplement the officers already stationed. Most of the detectives had previously been sent to the basement. I entered each of the bureaus except Homicide and Robbery and told the duty officer to have any available officers to report outside the jail office and went to the basement. Two or three detectives accompanied me and remained near the jail office. I went to the head of the ramp on Commerce Street and informed Patrolman Jez and one other patrolman to remain there and keep the way clear and to assist the armored truck in backing into the City Hall. I informed Captain Talbert of these instructions.

I then returned to near the jail office and stationed some of the detectives at the doors leading into the building proper, and noticed the Press Media was inside the jail office, but outside the admitting desk. I saw Assistant Chief Batchelor and Deputy Chief Stevenson and called Chief Batchelor's attention to the people in the jail office. I accompanied him inside and upon his instructions this area was cleared. Upon leaving the jail office we also had all persons except security personnel moved north of a line running east from the brick corner of the jail office to the railing on the opposite side and on a line from this point running east to the exit lanes for cars from the basement to the ramp itself.

Deputy Chief Stevenson then approached and said there had been a change in plans and, as the truck could not get into the City Hall, they were going to use two cars. At this time two police cars were started and brought up onto the ramp. Several officers had to move to allow the cars to get onto the ramp. I had given instructions to (cont'd)

all officers near the jail office and at the doors to allow no one in the area from the jail to the cars and on down the route the prisoner would take, and that the press would not be allowed to approach or even to attempt to converse with the prisoner, and that no one was to follow until after the cars left the basement.

I was about midway between the corner of the jail office and the back of the car on the ramp, when someone shouted, "here he comes!". I was on the east side of the ramp at this time. I turned to walk to the car on the ramp to make sure the way was clear and that officers were stationed on each side of the cars and all the way down the east side of the ramp to the cars. I saw officers along the route and officers on each side of the ramp near the cars and at the top of the ramp. I also saw Chief Stevenson on the ramp, so I turned to watch the parking area in the basement of the City Hall, when I heard a shot. This was sometime shortly before noon, but I don't remember the exact time. I turned toward the sound of the shot which had come from my left and to my rear. I shouted to the officers to bar all exits and all ramps. I saw the officers closing the exits and went toward the scuffle where apparently officers had a man in custody. As I approached the center of the scuffle several voices said "It was Jack Ruby". I do not know who said this, but as the prisoner was on his feet by this time I could see he was Jack Ruby, whom I had known 10 or 12 years before as the owner of the Silver Spur, a nightclub on South Ervay. I told the officers to take him to the jail and then had other officers assist Lt. Swain in keeping the crowd in the designated area. I assisted in this measure until after the ambulance left with Oswald and I then returned to the third floor after instructing the officers on the doors to let only persons with identification come to the third floor. After returning to the third floor, I assisted in the administration offices.

I had not seen a man that I recognized as Jack Ruby in the City Hall during the period of the investigation, until after the shooting in the basement.

Respectfully,

O.A. Jones
O.A. JONES,
Captain of Police
Forgery Bureau